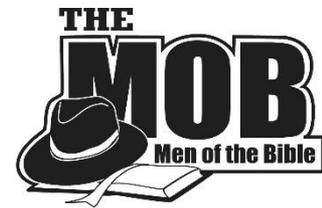


For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1:16-17



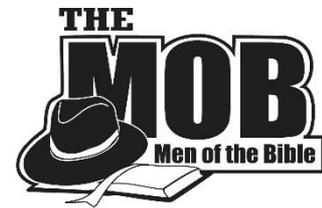
# Announcements



- **Welcome to the MOB!** Website: [www.ibcmob.net](http://www.ibcmob.net)
- [Unique Service Opportunity](#) to help a Brother – Update
- Assist Pregnancy Center: Walk, Run, Ride for Life
  - Participate or donate!
  - Family event on the WO&D trail; Saturday, April 21, 2018
  - <http://assistpartners.org/events/walk-run-ride-for-life/>
- [Job Seekers Seminar, IBC, May 5, 2018, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM](#)  
[\\$15 per person, Register Online, careers@ibc.church](#)
- [The Cripplegate Conference, IBC, June 5 – 8, 2018,](#)  
[Answering Islam, \\$35 per person, Register Online](#)



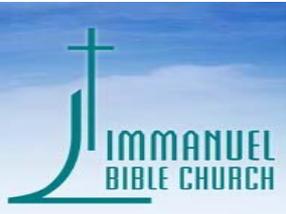
# Memory Verse



## **Romans 14:12 (NASB)**

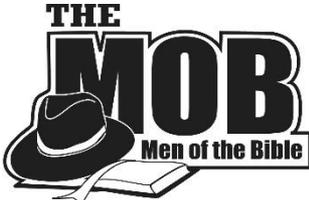
So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

## **Romans 14:12 (NASB)**



# Romans

## Outline



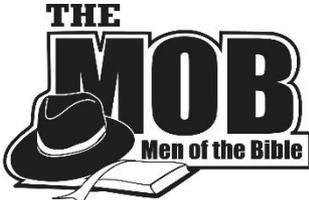
Focus	Revelation of God's Righteousness			Vindication of God's Righteousness			Application of God's Righteousness	
	Reference	1:1 – 3:20	3:21 – 5:21	6:1 – 8:39	9:1-29	9:30 – 10:21	11:1-36	12:1 – 13:14
Division	Need for God's Righteousness	Imputation of God's Righteousness	Demonstration of God's Righteousness	Israel's Past: Election	Israel's Present: Rejection	Israel's Future: Restoration	Christian Duties	Christian Liberties
Topic	Sin	Salvation	Sanctification	Sovereignty			Service	
	Doctrinal						Behavioral	
Location & Time	Probably written in <b>Corinth</b> (Greece) around <b>57 AD</b>							





# Romans

## Outline



Focus	Revelation of God's Righteousness			Vindication of God's Righteousness			Application of God's Righteousness	
	Reference	1:1 – 3:20	3:21 – 5:21	6:1 – 8:39	9:1-29	9:30 – 10:21	11:1-36	12:1 – 13:14
Division	Need for God's Righteousness	Imputation of God's Righteousness	Demonstration of God's Righteousness	Israel's Past: Election	Israel's Present: Rejection	Israel's Future: Restoration	Christian Duties	Christian Liberties
Topic	Sin	Salvation	Sanctification	Sovereignty			Service	
	Doctrinal						Behavioral	
	<b>Faith</b>			<b>Hope</b>			<b>Love</b>	



# Last Meeting



## Scripture:

- [Romans 13:8-14](#)

## Key Thoughts :

- Retain only the continuing debt to love one another
- Loving one another fulfills the law (*nomos*)
- Live in the light for this period of time

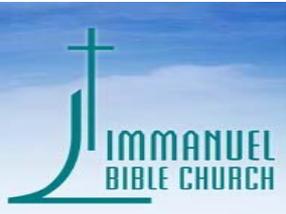
## Encountering the Book of Romans

Chapter 17

Fulfilling the Law through Love (13:8-10)

Living in the Light of Day (13:11-14)

pages 173 - 176



# This Meeting



## Scripture:

- [Romans 14:1-23](#)

## Encountering the Book of Romans

Chapter 18

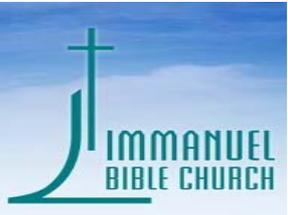
A Plea for Church Unit:

Principles of Christian Liberty

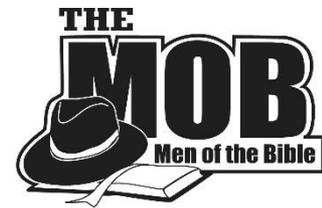
pages 177 - 185

## Key Thoughts :

- Personal faith determines religious practice
- Christians should not judge each other for practices that God accepts
- Christ is Lord so Christians are obliged to live for Him and not judge one another; all are accountable to God
- Christians have great freedom, but should refrain if it might cause others to stumble



# Brief Review / Context



**Author:** Apostle Paul

**Audience:** Christians (Believers) in Rome (review characteristics)

**Reason:** Encouraging Maturity & Unity in the Body of Christ

**Bottom Line:** (John MacArthur)

Romans 14:1-12 Receive one another with understanding

- God receives us
- The Lord sustains us
- The Lord is sovereign to each of us
- The Lord alone can judge us

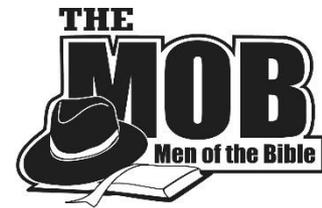
Romans 14:13-23 Build up one another without offending

Romans 15:1-7 Please one another with Christ as our example

Romans 15:8-13 Rejoice with one another because of God's plan



# Brief Review / Context



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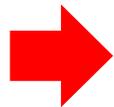
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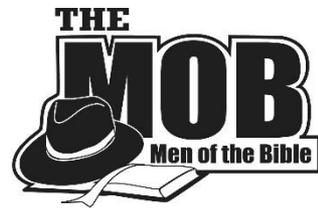
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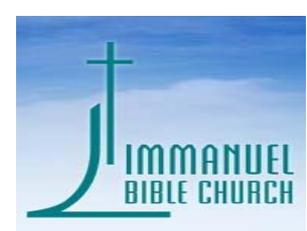
Romans 15:8-13 Rejoice with one another because of God's plan



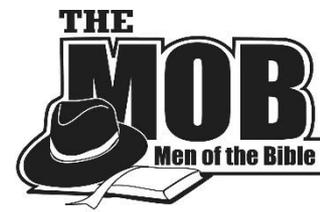
# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



<sup>1</sup> As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup> One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. <sup>5</sup> One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.



# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



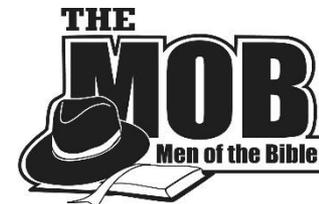
<sup>6</sup> The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup> For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. <sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup> for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

<sup>12</sup> So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.



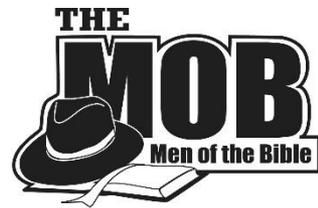
# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



<sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. <sup>14</sup> I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. <sup>15</sup> For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. <sup>16</sup> So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. <sup>17</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. <sup>19</sup> So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building.



# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



<sup>20</sup> Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. <sup>21</sup> It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. <sup>22</sup> The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. <sup>23</sup> But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.



# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



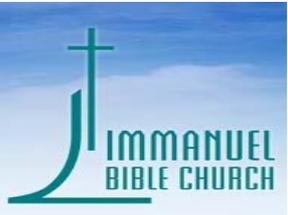
<sup>1</sup> As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

## Observation:

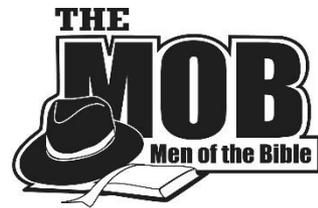
- Welcome a believer one who is weak in faith (What is “weak” faith)?
- Welcome = [προσλαμβάνεσθε](#) [proslambanesthe](#) = properly, aggressively receive, with strong personal interest (*prós*, "towards, interactively with," intensifying [2983](#) / *lambánō*, "lay hold of with initiative")
- Do not [pass judgement](#) on his [reasonings](#) (What are “opinions”)?

## Interpretation:

- Welcome with open arms, believers who do not understand the freedom and liberty followers of Christ have in the New Covenant
- But, do not get into arguments over “opinions” (“trivial matters”)
- “Opinions” are not moral issues, but matters of preference or custom



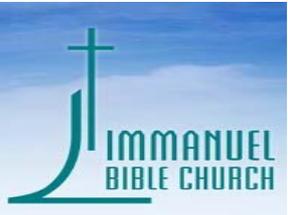
# Matthew 7:1-6 (ESV)



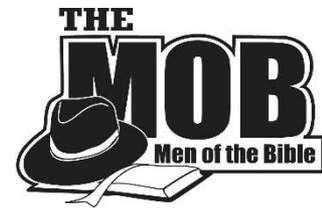
<sup>1</sup> “Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

<sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

<sup>6</sup> “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.



# Luke 6:37-42 (ESV)



<sup>37</sup> “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

<sup>39</sup> He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? <sup>40</sup> A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

<sup>41</sup> Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>42</sup> How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.



# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



<sup>2</sup> One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.

**Observation:** One example of a “weak” believer – can’t eat meat

**Interpretation:** There are two types of believers: “strong” and “weak” – this is just one illustration to make a point

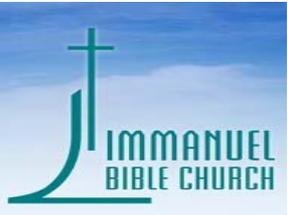
- Jewish believers – trouble eating unclean food (e.g., pork)
- Gentile believers – trouble eating meat from a pagan temple

[1 Corinthians 8](#)

<sup>3</sup> Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

**Observation:** Do not [judge](#) or ridicule the other (easy to do)

**Interpretation:** Do not [judge](#) another because God has [received](#) ([proslambanesthe](#)) him – if God has received him, so should you



# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



<sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another?

It is before his own master that he stands or falls.

And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

**Observation:** Each believer will be judged by God. God upholds.

**Interpretation:** Mind your own business! God takes care of his own.

Don't worry about matters of opinion (non-moral issues). [James 4:11-12](#)

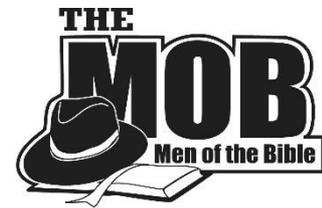
<sup>5</sup> One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

**Observation:** Another example of a “weak” believer – observes special days (e.g., Sabbaths, feasts, festivals, new moons – see Leviticus)

**Interpretation:** Each should make up his own mind about which days he will observe as special (or not)



# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



<sup>6</sup> The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.

**Observation:** Both believers are doing what they are doing (their own preferences or customs) to please God (proper motive)

**Interpretation:** Done with proper motive, its OK [Colossians 2:16](#)

<sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.

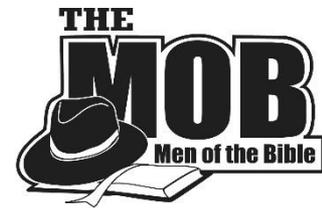
<sup>8</sup> For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

**Observation:** We are the Lord's. We belong to Him. [Galatians 2:20](#)

**Interpretation:** Therefore, *everything* we do should be for the Lord.



# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup> for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” ([Isaiah 45:23](#))

<sup>12</sup> So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

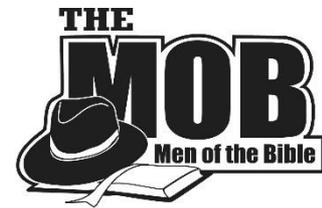
**Observation:** Everyone will bow before God; He will judge everyone.

[1 Peter 4:5](#)

**Interpretation:** Therefore, do not judge others for their preferences or customs (non-moral issues). You just worry about yourself (i.e., you will be accountable for yourself on these matters, not your brother).



# Philippians 2:1-11 (ESV)



<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



<sup>13</sup> Therefore, let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. ([1 Corinthians 8:9](#))

**Observation:** Stop judging others; do not hinder others spiritual growth

**Interpretation:** “Do no harm,” but help others grow spiritually instead

<sup>14</sup> I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

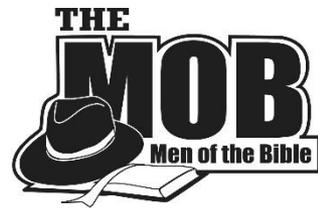
<sup>15</sup> For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. ([1 Corinthians 8:11](#))

**Observation:** Jesus Christ told the Apostle Paul that nothing is unclean in and of itself; only if someone thinks it is unclean, then it is unclean for that believer; respect that believer’s opinion; love him and help him grow

**Interpretation:** Do not offend another believer with your freedom



# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



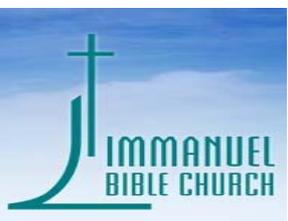
<sup>16</sup> So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.

<sup>17</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18</sup> Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. <sup>19</sup> So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building. ([Romans 12:18](#))

**Observation:** Do not give someone the opportunity to misunderstand your freedom in Christ for sin, but voluntarily refrain / restrain yourself out of love for your brother so he doesn't suffer a spiritual setback (not a loss of salvation) and can continue growing / maturing in his faith

**Interpretation:** Strong believers (understand their freedom in Christ) need to actively do whatever will help weaker believers (don't yet understand or aren't yet comfortable with their freedom in Christ)



# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



<sup>20</sup> Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. <sup>21</sup> It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

**Observation:** God is at work building up believers. Do not cause another to stumble and cause a spiritual setback. [1 Corinthians 8:9-12](#)

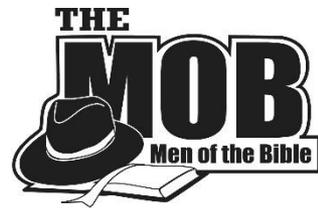
**Interpretation:** Your personal preferences (e.g., food and drink) are not worth hindering another believer's spiritual growth. It is better to do without (voluntarily limit yourself) out of love for your brother.

Alternatively, you may need to grow some yourself and try something new to not hinder another's growth. Remember Peter? [Acts 10](#)

*The ultimate freedom is the freedom to NOT exercise your freedoms!*



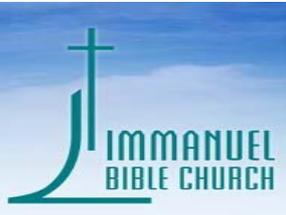
# Romans 14:1-23 (ESV)



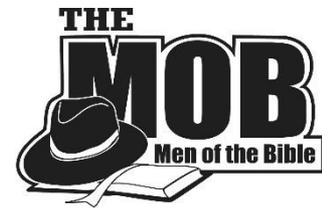
<sup>22</sup> The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. <sup>23</sup> But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

**Observation:** If you are a strong believer, it may be best to keep your freedom between you and God and not risk offending a weaker brother

**Interpretation:** Faith is the key



# Conclusion



## **Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV) The Great Commandment**

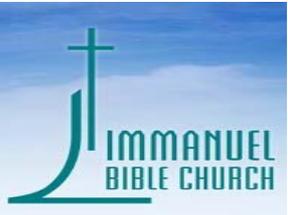
<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

*“In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity”*

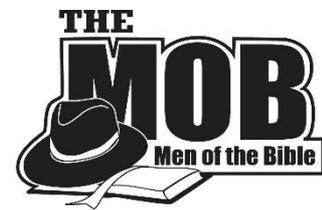
*-- Often attributed to great theologians such as Augustine, but it comes from an otherwise undistinguished German Lutheran theologian of the early seventeenth century, Rupertus Meldenius*

**Love God. Love Man.**

The World is watching...



# Discussion & Application



1. What religious traditions from your past limit your religious freedom today or cause you to offend other believers?
2. Whom have you judged because their religious practices and personal or cultural preferences were different from yours?
3. What are your convictions about setting aside certain days for worship?
4. In what ways do you live for Christ, seeking to please Him before yourself? In what ways do you need / want to grow?
5. What do you do that might be a stumbling block for others?
6. How can you be more accepting of people who do not share your opinions?
7. How can your service to Christ be more pleasing to God and to people also?



# Next Meeting



## A Plea for Unity in the Church: Practices of Christian Liberty

Review:

- [Romans 14:1-23](#)

Study:

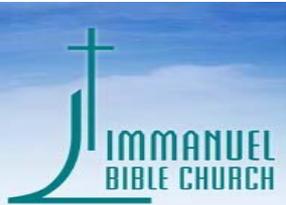
- [Romans 15:1-13](#)
- [Encountering Romans](#) Chapter 18,  
pages 185 - 188



# Closing



- Questions?
- Comments?
- Closing Prayer



# Bibliography



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